



## *Pushing the Limits of Connection* Suggested Reading and Discussion Questions

Connecting with each other and our histories is an important part of being human. In your groups, consider the common threads of family and societal connections, and how our interactions have changed over time with our ever-expanding ability to remain connected.

### *We Sinners*

**Hanna Pylväinen, Fiction.** The Rovaniemis and their nine children belong to a deeply traditional church (no drinking, no dancing, no TV) in modern-day Michigan. A typical American family in many ways, the Rovaniemis struggle with sibling rivalry, parental expectations, and forming their own unique identities in such a large family. But when two of the children venture from the faith, the family fragments and a haunting question emerges: Do we believe for ourselves, or for each other? Each chapter is told from the distinctive point of view of a different Rovaniemi, drawing a nuanced, kaleidoscopic portrait of this unconventional family. The children who reject the church learn that freedom comes at the almost unbearable price of their close family ties, and those who stay struggle daily with the challenges of resisting the temptations of modern culture. With precision and potent detail, *We Sinners* follows each character on their journey of doubt, self-knowledge, acceptance, and, ultimately, survival. - [goodreads.com](http://goodreads.com)

- Each chapter of *We Sinners* is told as a different episode from a member of the Rovaniemi family. How do the chapters contribute to the overall narrative, and why do you think the author chose to tell the story this way?
- Examine the relationships between parent and child in the book. Is it inevitable for children to become like their parents, or do they often stray from the mold? What accounts for this outcome? Is there a human need to be connected to our families vs. the culture around us?

